A TABLE OF SIMILARITIES

between signs of the Phaistos Disk, Cretan hieroglyphs and seals, signs on the Arkalochori axes, and Linear A/B

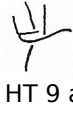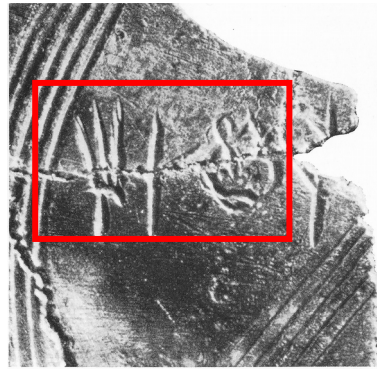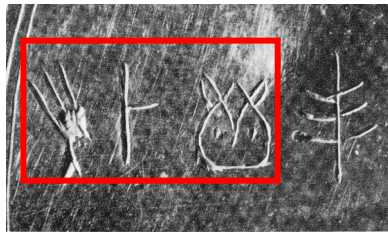First posted on line 28 November 2012; updated signs 04 and 22, 14/12/12; updated 21, 7/1/13; updated 42-43, 17/5/13; updated 13, 19, 20, 22 and 41, 6/9/13; updated 6, 10 and 22, 4/12/13; updated 27 and 44, 26/4/16; updated 44, 16/9/16; updated 50, 30/1/17; updated 02, 09, 15 and 27, 13/7/17; updated 04, 06, 13, 18, 24, 27, 31, 36, 39, 44, 46, and 50, 20/7/17.

Phaistos disk signs	Cretan hieroglyphs and seals	Arkalochori axes	'Glyptic' linear A (on stone, metal etc)	'Administrative' linear A (on clay)	Received reading from Myc Gk in Lin B
	 H001, SM No. 1			 PH 8 a PH 12 KN 22 a.2, AB46	**je** (as in *i-je-re-ja* ιέρεια, priestess)
je supports and is supported by the reading of word B17 as i-*301-wi-je					
	 MA/P Hf (06) 01 a, H003 	 HM2416 sign 1 AR Zf 1, AB28	 IO Za 3, AB28 Boskamp AB28	 PH 6.1, AB28 HT 9 a.4-5, AB28	**i** (as in *i-qe-ja*, ικυεία, horse goddess)
The equation of HM2416 (Arkhalokori Axe) sign 1 with AB28 is assured by parallel readings I-DA-MA- on AR Zf 1 and 2:					
	 MA/V Ya 01, Kn HH (04) 04 H002		 IO Za 6, AP Za 1 AB10	 PH 7a, AB10	**u** (as in *u-do* υδώρ, water)
The identification of this 'uncrested head' with AB10 is assured by the multiple instances of the sign AB10 (U) in the same words of Linear A documents IO Za 6, AP Za 1 and PH 7a, as in the scans below.					
	 CR/S (2/3) 02 b.1, H006			 SY Za 4, AB48	**nwa** (as in *e-nwa-ri-jo*, Ενυάλιος, Enyalios)

05	H001, SM No. 2			MI 2.1, AB50	KH 88.2	**pu** ? (as in *pu-ta*, φυτά, plants)
06	IRAKLIOS (3/3) 01a H004	KN Hh (01) 01d			MA1 a, AB45? AB102? (GAO) or AB44	**de** (as in *de-mi-ni-ja*, a class of women)
07	MA/V Ya 01, H034 / NEAPOLIS S (8/8) 01 α		IO Za 2 b.2, AB37	PH 16	ZA Zb 3.2, AB37	**ti** (as in *ti-ri-po*, τρίπως, tripod)

The reading **ti** supports and is supported by B23 tiru$_2$te, B24 tiditi and B28 idetenati, with Linear A parallels listed below.

08	H009			ZA 4 a.5, A28b B52		**no** (as in *ko-no-so*, Κνωσός, Knossos)
09	H087		IO Za 6 Boskamp A301 A301	HT 98 a.3, A301	? B72	*301 **pe** (as in *i-pe-me-de-ja*, ιφιμεδεια, Iphimedea)
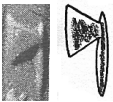
The identification of PD sign 9 with Linear A *301 depends upon the equation of PD face B word 17 (02–09–27–01, read here as I-*301-WI-JE) with Linear A words I-*301-WA-E (PK Za 11) or I-*301-WA-JA (other documents). See comments on sign 28 below. Compare PD words B17-26 with IO Za 2:
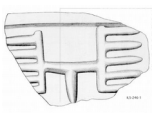
PD: i-*301-wi-je au-ni-ti-no au-no-pa au-di-ti di$_2$-au-ni-ti-no wi-pi-na-dwa ti-ru$_2$-te ti-di-ti ti-na-ru$_2$-e di$_2$-au-ni-ti-no
IO: I-*301-WA-JA   JA-DI-KI-TU   ...   I-PI-NA-MA SI-RU-TE   TA-NA-RA-TE   U-TI-NU I-DA[
PK Za 11 has -WA-E   IO Za 6 has here TA-NA-I-*301
IO Za 3: I-*301-WA-JA AU- [broken
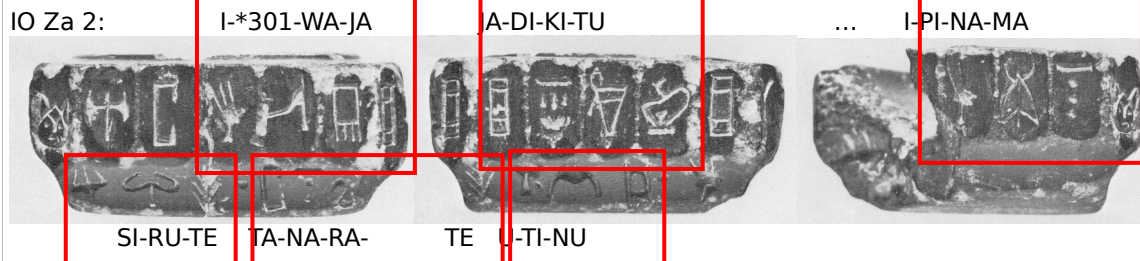
IO Za 2:

If the correspondence we have drawn between these PD signs and the corresponding linear A signs is correct, the probability of 9 signs matching by chance (out of the 36 signs in IO Za 2: 31 extant and 5 restored) is over 1 in 14 million.

10	H067			HT 1.2, AB79 or AB20		**zu** ? wjo ? (Melena 1978)
11	CHIC#**236** MA/V S: CMS II 2.78	H048, H089 (Jasink)		HT 126 b.2, AB87? But cf sign 28	B87	**twe** (as in *o-da-twe-ta*, some kind of wheels)

12	H075	CMS II, 2 063			MA1 a, AB78	**qe** (kwe), as in *qe-to*, qʷέθοι, pithoi)
13	MIRABELO S (3/3) 02c cf. sign 50	H062? Bronze pin from Azoria			PH 7 a.1, AB03 ?	**pa** ? (as in *pa-i-to*, Φαιστός, Phaistos)
14	Probably *not* H034 (see PD07)				HT 9 b.2, A305 HT Wa 1278, AB59	*305 ? **ta** ? (as in *ta-ra-nu*, θρανυς, footstool)
15 Axe or Mattock	NEAPOLIS S (8/8) 01 θ1, H043				ZA 14.2, A363 ZA 15a, A364 Sc258 B12	**so** (as in *to-so*, τόσσος, so much)
16 Saw	H045				HT Wa 1286, HT Wa 1311 AB74	**ze** (as in *ze-u-ke-si* ζεύγεσσι)
17 Lid? Seal?	CHIC #301γ (1/3) detail CR (?) S 12 H044? SM138e				HT 11a.3, A322 HT Wc 2026	*322
18	KN Hh(04)04d B.4 SM 42 MA/M Hd01				HT 27a.5 A310 HT8a.3 =AB34 ?	**ru₂** (rju, lu) (as in *ru₂-te*, λυτήρ; Palmer p.23) ; ai₂? (hai : Melena 1990)
Of the two proposed readings for Linear B34 (Palmer's ru₂ and Melena and Chadwick's ai₂ (hai), ru₂ (rju) is supported by the equation of PD word B23 (tiru₂te) with Linear A SIRUTE. See note under sign 9, above.						
19	H027? (branch to one side)	HM2416 signs 2 and 15	AR Zf 1, AB01	ZA 5 a.3, AB01		**da** (as in *da-ma-te* δάμαρτες, *familiae*)
20				PH 8 a, B91? *417VAS HT 6a.4, AB67		*417 ? ki ? two ? (as in *o-two=we-o/o-tu-wo-wo-we*, a name) ne ?
AB24 *ne* would yield AUEENETE for B13, with parallels in DARUNETE (HT 98 b.2) and KAKUNETE (ZA 10 b.6)						

21 Warping board? Hand loom? Shield support?	CMS II,5 246 CHIC 282 PYR S (1/4) 01 δ CMS II,5 68 H039				**swi** (as in *a-swi-ja/a-si-wi-ja*, Aswia, epithet of Potnia) B64 pa₃?

The identification of PD 21 with H039 and/or B64 rests on the observation that its shape is wholly included within PYR S (1/4) 01 δ, which like PD 21 has 'combs' at top and bottom, a vertical central bar with a horizontal projection to the left. PYR S (1/4) 01 δ has, in addition, a horizontal projection to the right and two diagonals. The 'combs' (e.g. rows of pegs) at top and bottom resemble a warping board, either with (PYR S (1/4) 01 δ) or without (PD 21) a warp threaded across it. An alternative identification is this similar object – some kind of shield borne by a warrior with a crested helmet – on a krater from Kynos (right):

22	Possibly KN Hh (04) 05 d, uncertain sign CHIC #250 α ♪ (Jasink) Poss. CHIC #282α sign 2			*HT 45 a.3, A318	**zo** (*zo-a*, ζοά, for boiling)

(Younger suggests *318=DI₂, but the evidence is rather slim.) Olivier (2013) sees A318 continuing into Cypro-Minoan and Classical Cypriot RO; the Cypriot r+Vowel series generally correspond to Linear A/B z=Vowel.

23		HM2416, sign 9	IO Za 2d, AB06	KH 60 1, AB06	**na** (as in *na-wi-jo*, νάϜιον, temple)
24	MA/V Ya01, KN Hh (04)02d H094 H037		PK Za 11a, AB38	TY 3a.1 ZA 18a ZA15a.2 A321 AB38	**e** (as in *e-ka-ra*, εσχάρα, hearth)

A321 perhaps a sistrum rather than a "house". AB38 is perhaps therefore a more plausible correspondence

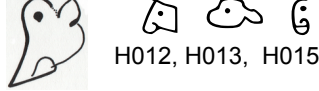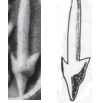|					
25	MA/P Hf (06) 02 a, H040			HT 94 b.5, AB86	*86, **dwa**, as in *me-dwa-ta* Medwātās, a name (Melena 1983)
26	KN Hh (01) 01d, H088			HT 28 b.2, AB 76	ra₂ (**rja**, as in *a-ke-ti-rja*, *a-ke-ti-ri-ja*, ακέστριαι, needle-women)
27	HF(04)01b H084 but cf sign 09		Boskamp AB180? AB40?	PH 15 b, HT 113 a.2, AB180 AB40 ʌⳡ Cypriot	*180 **wi** (as in *wi-ri-no*, Ϝρῖνος, hide, skin) (*307?) wa ?

Our proposed reading **wi** depends on identifying AB180 with AB40. A307 could also be a variant of this sign, and is often duplicated, as in HT 85a.1. The horizontal and vertical bars of the central "T" in HT 113 a.2 are also evident in the Cretan hieroglyphic version of this sign. This reading gives several "yields" (similarities to other words) in Linear A (see below), and fits with the first syllable of the Mycenean Greek word for hide or skin. An alternative possible reading **wa ?** depends on identifying *180 with the corresponding Cypriot sign, on the basis of their visual similarity; this also yields a reading *301 WA₁₈₀ RE? E *355 for PH 10, resembling I *301 WA E of PK Za 11.
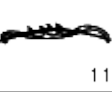
28	NEAPOLIS S (8/8) 01 d.2, H046			$\overline{\mathsf{S}}$ B36	**jo** (as in *i-jo*, υιός, son)
29	H017		IO Za 3, AB85	PH (?) 31 a.3, SUS (quite distinct from AB85)	**au** ? or poss. sa_2 (**sja**, as in *a-sa₂-ta₂*= *a-si-ja-ti-ja*, a place)
30	H016	↔ This relationship is not well substantiated.	PS Za2.2, IO Za 6 AB13	KH 7 a.3, AB13 ZA 22.2, AB 21^m	me ? (as in *me-na* Μήνα. the moon), or qi^m (**kwi**, as in *qi-si-pe-e*, ξίφεε, swords)
31	MA/P He (08) 01b H *168			HT 9 a.6, AB81	**ku** (as in *ku-mi-no*, κύμινον, cumin)
32	NEAPOLIS S (8/8) 01 d.3 CR S (1/2) 01, H095? SM79, 80, 82		IO Zb 10, AB 60	PH 7 b.2, AB60	**ra** (as in *ra-ka*, ράξ, berry)
33	KN S (2/2) 01 a, H019 ARKH S (3/3) 01, H019 SITIA (?) S (3/4) 01 α		IO Za 6 b, AB31	HT 9 a, AB31 PH 13c PH 15a, AB31 HT65 Fish + AB31	**sa** (as in *sa-sa-ma*, σάσαμα, sesame)

Compare PH15a]MA-TE-RE-SA with PD B16 de-te-ra-re-sa and B7 pa-je-re-sa. These parallel –re-sa endings support the identification of sign 33 with SA.

34	Mallia quartier mu Sealing no. 34, H021		"Mason's mark", Palace of Phaistos	KH 10.3, AB39	**pi** (as in *pi-a₂-ra*, φιάλαι, boiling pans)
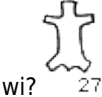
35	MA/V Ya 01, H025	HM2416, sign 14 AR Zf 1, AB04	KN Zf 13, AB04	PH Zb 4, AB04	**te** (as in *te-me-no*, τέμενος)
36	MA/V Ya 01, KN Hh (04) 04 H029 CR S (¾) 01 γ.1 H024	? HM2416, sign 12 (Owens suggests this could be PD35/AB04, *te*)		PH 16 a.2, AB30	OLIVE? A syllabic value is not known **ni** (FIGS), as in *a-mi-ni-so* Amnissos
37	Probably not H068			B33?	ra$_3$ (**raj**, as in *e- ra$_3$-wo*, έλαιϜον, olive oil)
38	ARKH S (2/14) 01 (CMS II, 1 391) CMS II,2 072 (Knossos) CMS II,1 088 (Aghia Triada)		"Mason's mark", Palace of Phaistos IO Za 6, AB 77		**ka** (as in *ka-na-ko*, κνακος, safflower)
39	KN He (08) 01 a1.4 H023 (H031 or H032 poss.)		KO Za 1b, AB27	HT 17.3, AB27	**re** (as in *re-u-ko*, λευκός, white)
40	H093? cf PD 07		AP Za 2, AB69	LA Zb 1 PH 2, AB69	**tu** (as in *tu-ro$_2$*, τυροί, cheeses)
41	Bone?			KO Za 1d, AB41? - quite speculative	si?
42	H028 PYR I (1/1) 01 Minoan sickle? Fitzwilliam Museum E.53.1902(1)				

 43	Strainer? Grater? H047　Grater from Azoria			 PK 1.2, AB66　　HT 114 a.1, 　　　　AB66	ta₂ (**tja**, as in *a-sa₂-ta₂/a-si-ja-ti-ja*, a place name)
 44	 H012, H013, H015 MA/M Hf (06) 01			 PH 15b　PH 8a　AP Za 2 A306　　　　　　AB73	**mi**? (as in *ku-mi-no*, κύμινον, cumin)
The sequence of signs 　27　44 that starts side A word 8 is similar (R-to-L) to PH15b:					
 45	 KN Hh (04) 04 aB, H071			 PH 26, A314　　AB07	**di** (as in *di-u-ja*, ΔιϜία, a goddess)
The equation of PD45 with AB07 yields B24 ti-di-ti, similar to TI-DI-TE, a word also attested in Linear A (KN Zf 31)					
Further signs from the Arkalochori Axe, not attested on the Disk:					
46	 MA S (¼) 01c	 HM2416,　AR Zf 1, sign 3　　AB80	 IO Za 2, AB80	 PH 7a.3, AB80	**ma** (as in *ma-te*, μάτηρ, mother)
The equation of HM2416 (Arkhalokori Axe) sign 3 with AB80 is assured by parallel readings I-DA-MA- on AR Zf 1 and 2. See photographs under sign 02, above.					
47		 HM2416, sign 5			Is this an inverted version of sign 36, ni/OLIVE?
48		 HM2416, sign 6			
49	If this is a hand, see PD sign 08 above	 HM2416, sign 8			
50	 MA/M S (1/3) 04, H050	 HM2416, sign 13 H*176			

John Coleman and Gareth Owens, 2008–2017

Phaistos disk signs tabulated against Linear A/B signs, with sound values from Linear B

		e 24	i 02	au 29	u 03
p	pa 13	pe 09	pi 34		pu 05
d	da 19	de 06	di 45		
dw	dwa 25				
t	ta 14	te 35	ti 07		tu 40
tj	ta₂ (tja) 43				
tw		twe 11		two 20	
k	ka 38				ku 31
z		ze 16		zo 22	zu 10
kw		kwe 12	kwi 30		
m	ma				
n	na 23	(ne? two?) 20	ni 36	no 08	
nw	nwa 04		mi? 44		
r	ra 32	re 39			
	ra₃ (raj) 37				
rj	ra₂ (rja) 26				rju 18
s	sa 33		swi 21	so 15	
			si? 41		

j		je 01			jo 28	
w			wi? 27			
unknown	17 42 47 48 49 50					

Some similarities between PD words and Linear A words:

A2	etukwe	:	PH2	ASETUQI[f]
			PH Wg 45	ETAJQE
			HT 25a.3	TUQENU
B2	widite	:	KN Zf 31	TIDITE
A6	widitikwe	:	KN Zf 31	TIDITEQATI
B24	tiditi	:	KN Zf 31	TIDITE
B28-29	idetenati aupinadwa	:	PK Za 11 UNARUKANATI IPINAMINA[
A9	kurajte	:	ZA 20.4	KURA
A10	ikwesi?date	:	ARKH 2.1	SIDATE
				QATIDATE (*)
A14-15	iwa?dwazunarju joje	:	KN Za 10	DAWA[.]DUWATO IJA[,
	(*not if *180 = wi*)		TY 3a	KOADUWA
A16	ikwekurja	:	HT 20.2-3	QEKURE
A27	nadate	:	HT 117a.5	NADARE
B7	pajeresa	:	PH 15a	]MATERESA
B15	ausaje	:	KN Zg 55	JASAJA, KE Zb 4 JASIE
B16	deteraresa	:	PH 15a	]MATERESA
B17	i*301wije	:	IO Za 2	-I*301WAJA
			PKZa 11	-WAE
B22	wipinadwa	:	IO Za 2	IPINAMA
B23	tirjute	:	IO Za 2	SIRUTE (*)
			HT 116a.4	PIRJUTE
B25	tinarjue	:	IO Za 2	TANARATE

(*) T/S variation also seen in PK Za 11 UNARUKANATI ~ KO Za 1 etc UNAKANASI

Note that these similarities provide further evidence that the direction of text is from the rim towards the centre.

Transliterations

In the following transliteration of the text of the Disk, "rju" could equally well be "hai"; "au" could be "sja" – various uncertainties remain; we have attempted to enumerate all reasonable possibilities in the tables above. We might have liberally sprinkled '?' throughout the transliteration, as in the table above, but have not done so as (a) *all* of it is open to doubt and debate, and (b) it would only clutter and disrupt the text still further.

A	ikwepajerju_	etukwe	auditi_	auaupi
	ikwenwatusa	widitikwe	wimino	
	ikwederju[two?]			kurjate
	ikwesidate	jesituti		
	ikweranaka_	retwe	iwidwazunarju	joje_
	ikwekurja_			
	ikwewiwiterajswi	sana		
	ikwekurja_		iwidwazunarju	joje_
	ikwekurja_			

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        ikwewitararjuwiderju*322da        kurjakwe
        ikwepaje        nadate_        zuuka
        ikwewiwiterajswi    paje        zuuka
B       ikwezotuti    widitite
        irajnapu_        zodwawi        saetwokwe
        zenarjutja_      pajeresa

        sotipajerju      zoraj*42dwa  tietute
        irjanitu        widwakaje        aueetwote
        zetarju        ausaje        deteraresa
ipewije aunitino_ aunopa auditi_ zoaunitino_ wipinadwa tirjute tiditi_ tinarjue zoaunitino_
        pekwirerjuti        idetenati      aupinadwa        diti_
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A transliteration of the Arkalochori Axe inscription

1.   I-DA-MA-NA-<47>-<48>
2.   I-<49>-NA-I-MA-NI(or TE?)
3.   <50>-TE(or ZO?)-DA

Bibliographic notes

The idea that the signs of the Disk and the Axe are related to Cretan Hieroglyphics, Linear A and Linear B, and they might thus be read with sound values obtained from Linear B, is far from new and not in the least original. It is a hypothesis that has engaged and divided scholars for decades.

Evans (1909) pp. 278–9, though concluding that the Disk and its script is of non-Cretan origin, compares many disk signs with Minoan hieroglyphics:

PD 18 "This occurs in the regular Minoan series (No. 42)"
PD 30 "The facing head of a similar animal occurs in the Minoan hieroglyphic series (No. 67)."
31 "The linearized representation of a flying eagle … occurs in both classes of the Cretan linear script"
32 "Compare the dove preening its wings, No. 79 of the Cretan hieroglyphic series, and also the bird No. 82"
36 "The forked spray here shown closely resembles certain varieties of what has been described as the 'olive branch'. No. 101 of the Minoan hieroglyphic series."
39 "Dr. Pernier is probably right in identifying this sign with the saffron flower, No. 88 of the Cretan hieroglyphic series"
43 "The simple triangle occurs among the Minoan hieroglyphs (No. 130)"

In one of the first contemporary reports of the Arkalokhori axes, Payne (1935) comments "Many of [the axes] are cast, and have elaborate incised and chased patterns. One has an inscription, incised in three columns, the script of which resembles that of the Phaistos disk." In view of the equation that can be made between the first three signs, I-DA-MA-, of the Arkalochori Axe and parallel inscriptions in Linear A on AR Zf 1 and 2, it can no longer be maintained that (as Godart 1995 claims) "apart from sign 4, we cannot possibly maintain with confidence that the cases of signs common to the axe and the Cretan scripts are especially important, allowing us to link securely the inscription of the axe with one of the scripts of ancient Crete". Indeed, in view of the very many similarities and correspondences set out in the table above, we assert that it can hardly be denied that the texts and their scripts are closely related, and we firmly reject Godart's claim that "there are no definitive comparisons between the signs of the Phaistos disc and the syllabograms of the three known Cretan scripts", though of course we must admit that there are still many points of uncertainty.

The hypothesis followed here, that the Phaistos Disk signs are related to the Cretan linear scripts, was advanced by Schwartz (1959), Schürr (1973), Nahm (1975), Duhoux (1983) and Timm (2004), albeit always with doubts about specific sign relationships. Raison and Pope (1971: xiv-xv), considering Linear A and Cretan hieroglyphics, note 'des points communs avec des caractères des autres écritures précédemment évoquées, notamment l''hieroglyphique' [citing here 20 correspondences, with reference to *Scripta Minoa I*], ainsi qu'avec le répertoire graphique du célèbre disque de Phaistos … Les numéros 12, 19/22, 25, 27, 31, 35, 39, 43, 45 de cette liste sont

assez analogues (quoique beaucoup plus 'pictographiques') à Lin. A. *L 91, 30/31, 35, 56?, 92?, 98, 49/54, 86?, 58.'*

Though some have been extremely reluctant to draw parallels between the Disk or Axe signs and Cretan hieroglyphics, the links between hieroglyphics and Linear A/B are relatively uncontroversial, even though not clear in every case. Ventris and Chadwick (1956) p. 33, fig. 6 sets a basis for subsequent work, such as the table of possible correspondences between hieroglyphics and Linear A/B in Olivier et al. (1996). Owens (1996) details some correspondences between signs in the Cretan hieroglyphic inscription of the Malia stone table and signs of the Phaistos Disk and Linear A.

The final step in the chain of correspondences – that Linear A symbols can be read with sound values inferred from Mycenaean Greek written in Linear B – was confirmed by Packard (1974); it is now accepted practice to associate Linear A symbols with Linear B values, as in e.g. Godart and Olivier (1985), and the transliterations at http://people.ku.edu/~jyounger/LinearA/

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